

from public criticism. Understanding well the readiness with which numbers of well-meaning but sentimental people allow themselves to be taken in by pious frauds and by asseverations of religious purpose, the quack nursing-school is now blatantly cried over the country as founded on religion and a love of humanity, and as working solely from a religious impulse. The cant, amounting to plain blasphemy, and fulsome pretentiousness and unctuousness with which the circulars and reports of these schools are filled, is disgusting to a refined mind and odious to those who abhor seeing the mantle of true religion used to cloak the most fraudulent and self-seeking purposes.

There is too little genuine, self-forgetting, unostentatious religion to-day, and too much of the loud declamatory type. The mode of advertising of the fraudulent nursing-school is precisely that of the patent-medicine fraud. It is a canny scheme, because many will be intimidated by it and will hesitate to oppose what wears the tag of religion, fearing to be shrieked at as irreligious or as hostile to the works of religion.

JUSTICE.

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DEAR EDITOR: I have wanted to send thanks to the JOURNAL many times for ideas and helps found within its pages, but one thing especially has been of great benefit to me. That is Miss Ruth Sherman's "Method of Sterilizing in a Private House," and I want her to know that several others have thanked her in their hearts for so carefully explaining how to arrange the cheese-cloth around the boiler, so that there is no chance of the bundles to be steamed falling into the water.

Until I made a hammock after her pattern I had had many a slip into the water of parcels to be steamed—sterilized. I gathered the cheese-cloth at the handles, and fastened it with safety-pins, but I always held my breath (while some one else held the opposite end of the cloth), and at intervals until the bundles were safely out of the uncertain sterilizer.

Now with this new device I feel as comfortable as if I were in a modern hospital sterilizing-room, and so do not need to plan time for possible mishaps. The JOURNAL is a great post-graduate assistance.

E. L. P., R.N.

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DEAR EDITOR: Answering "Yearling," as a nurse of long standing, I made it my rule to wash my babies' diapers and flannels in all cases where there was no nursemaid or separate laundress. I knew then how they were washed—no soda or washing powders, and by the

use of small folds of muslin that were destroyed, and rinsing or, indeed, washing at once, as soon as used, I experienced very little trouble, and except when the water was unusually hard, no detriment to my hands. As to the flannels, no one else seemed to do them so well, and I was careful that they did not need to be washed too often. No baby is too young to be trained to the use of a small bowl, held in the lap. This obviates a good deal of washing. *I have caught the meconium!* I am aware that my practice is rather the exception, but I never found my dignity or standing lowered by such action. My record stands now at my sixtieth birth.

“1890.”



PNEUMONIA.—Dr. H. B. Weaver in an article in the *Medical Record* says that pneumonia is increasing in prevalence and fatality and urges that more attention should be paid to prophylaxis. If measures of prevention were more generally taught and adopted, the prevalence of pneumonia could be greatly reduced in a short while. The profession should know and the people must be taught how to prevent pneumonia. They must be informed that it is infectious; that it can be communicated from one person to another; that it is *preventable*. And how? Simply by taking care of the sputum of pneumonia patients. Instruct them not to expectorate indiscriminately on the floor or bedding. Let them spit in a cuspidor, or upon cloth, which should be immediately burned. The mouth and teeth should be thoroughly and often cleansed with an antiseptic wash. In fact all the excretions should be as sedulously disinfected and destroyed as in cases of typhoid fever. And after recovery or death in every case of pneumonia, the room should be as thoroughly disinfected by fumigations with formaldehyde as in cases of all other contagious diseases.

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PERUVIAN BALSAM IN TREATMENT OF WOUNDS.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a foreign contemporary, says: “Schlöffner has treated more than 100 cases of wounds with Peruvian balsam and his experience has convinced him that the balsam has certain properties which surpass those of any other substance at our disposal for the treatment of wounds, especially in crushed and soiled tissues. Severe inflammation never develops in any wound treated with the balsam in the first twenty-four hours. The balsam is poured into the wound and every crevice filled. It attracts the leucocytes to the spot and has a kind of mummifying effect on the dead tissues, while it mechanically checks the development of micro-organisms.”